



A quarterly newsletter of Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment Bureau of Waste Management Summer 2001

## hi kids!

In April 1997, after a year and a half of planning, the Thomas County Conservation District and the group "Citizens for Recycling" held their first recycling collection. For three years, the program had regular collections in a building owned by a local business.

In 1999, a \$60,000 grant helped build a permanent recycling building and purchase a recycling trailer and other equipment. The first collection at the new facility took place in April 2000.

As a result, the program has grown from a once-a-month, three-hour-long collection to a 24-hour drop-off accepting 22 types of recyclable material! In addition, the recycling trailer travels to nearby communities to collect recyclables. Another \$14,500 grant allowed the program to keep up with continued growth by purchasing more equipment and outside collection bins.

The program is run with the help of lots of volunteers, a "Green Thumb" program employee, city employees, and a very dedicated employee of the Thomas County Conservation District!

Future plans include adding on to the facility to increase storage and work areas and offering assistance with processing recyclables to smaller, surrounding communities.

In 2000, the program's goal was to recycle 200 tons. This goal was met and exceeded by recycling 260 tons! Great things are in store for the Thomas

County Conservation District and their Citizens for Recycling!



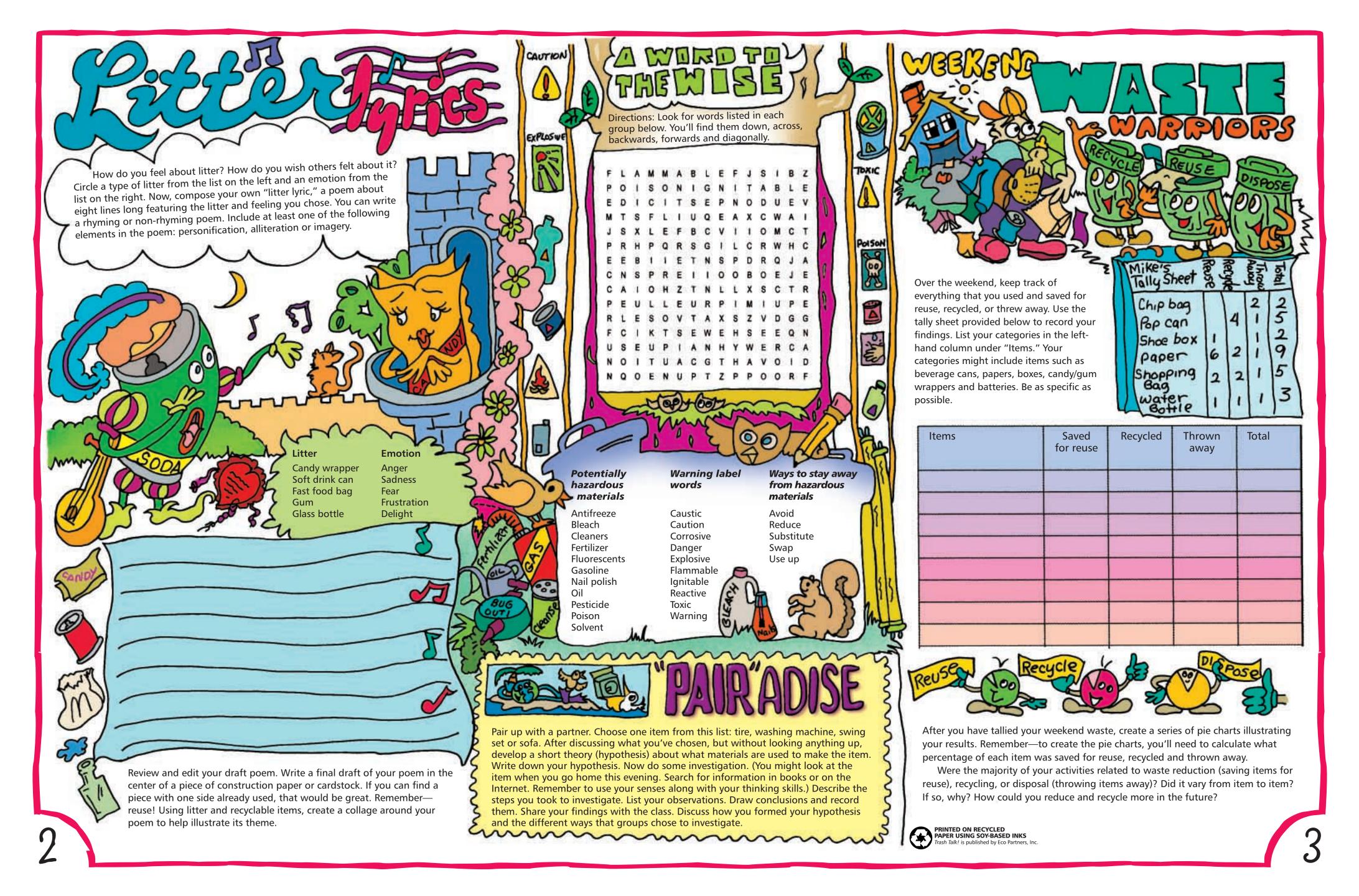


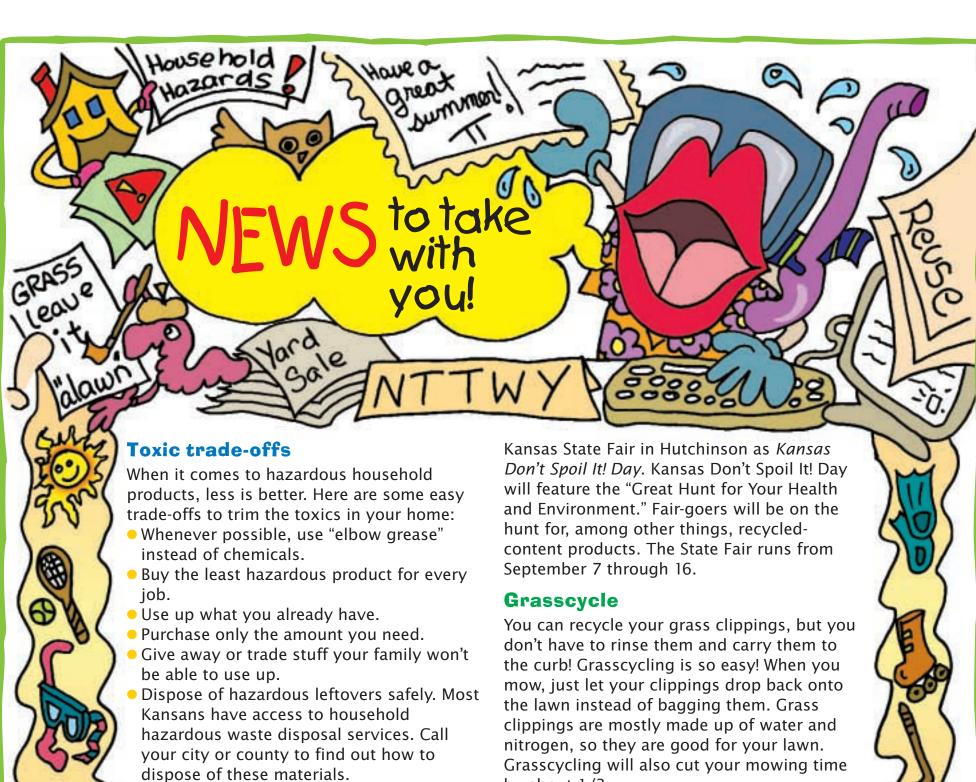
"Partnering" is a very popular word in government and business these days. The dictionary says that a partner is a person (or group) working with someone else on an activity that interests both sides. Therefore, "partnering" is a way for people or groups to combine their resources to achieve a common goal. Partnering is like teamwork—and we all know what that is!

But why is partnering important to recycling in Kansas? Many of the recycling programs in this state have problems because they have a big job to do but a small amount of money. When these programs work together with their neighbors, local businesses or the state, they save time and money and increase their recycling successes.

During March, recyclers and

composters from all over the state got together at Fort Hays State University for the seventh annual "Recycling and Composting Works!" conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Partnering to Make a Difference." Recyclers and composters went "back to school" to learn ways that they could work together!

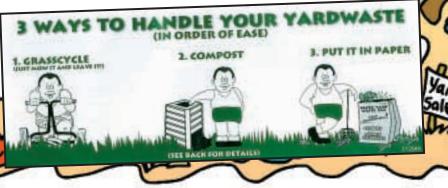


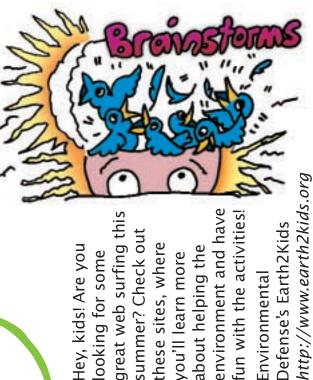


Kansas Don't Spoil It! Day at the State Fair

September 14 will be celebrated at the

by about 1/3.





great web surfing this environment and have fun with the activities! Defense's Earth2Kids summer? Check out about helping the these sites, where looking for some you'll learn more Environmental

Hey, kids! Are you

on't Spoil It!" link http://www.earthdog.com Don't forget us—w Click on the "Kansas D

Ranger Rick's Kids Zon http://www.nwf.org/k

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EPA's Explorers' Club



Funded by Kansas Department of Health & Environment,

**Bureau of Waste** Management



KDHE/Bureau of Waste Management/ **Planning, Grants & Public Education Unit** 

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